Two for One

Since forever, or at least since the '90s, Norm's Corner Shop has stocked two, *maximum* three, of each item:

Two bottles of reconstituted orange juice.

Two clear 60 watt screw-in halogen light bulbs.

Two 400 gram tins of peaches.

Two boxes of matches.

Two packets of salt and vinegar chips.

Two toothbrushes: one Hard, one Soft — a Medium average.

It's like the Noah's Ark of Corner Shops.

Items sit side by side on duck egg blue shelves like a museum display, almost. Instead of text detailing the artefact's cultural significance or provenance, the object is accompanied by a label — a heady mix of hand-cut cardboard, transparent tape and permanent marker — indicating market value for the benefit of prospective collectors.

Norm of Norm's Corner Shop knows every resident within a 750 metre radius and he greets every customer by name. Children call in and call out

on their way to and from school; the high pitched chiming of Hi Norm Hi Norm, Hi Norm, Hi Norm floats across the street. He is the Number One Community News Source, and certainly up there when it comes to rest-of-the-world news, given his unusually abundant collection of newspapers by the entrance.

two

He also knows I am an artist. We lean on the ice-cream freezer and chat about exhibitions happening in the city. Norm gives his opinion on the winning entry of a particular portrait prize and asks what I'm painting at the moment. Soon he directs the conversation to the topic of my professional ambitions, listening and challenging me in equal parts.

Eventually I pull the last bottle of full cream milk from the refrigerator and pay. Norm of Norm's Corner Shop reaches for change. 'Some career advice, Ida' — his hand hovers with the silver coin above my upturned palm — 'You *don't* want to flood the market.'

He releases the 10 cent piece, then cheerily waves me goodbye and good luck.

1 für 2

2 Schachteln voll Glück

Zusammenspiel für die Hosentasche

meine umabgesetzte Palme

umgedreht

Ida benutzt das Wort oft für Gespräch, Unterhaltung ... a conversation ... das würde ich sagen ...

CHAT / CHATTEN hat im Deutschen das digitale in sich

ORLANDO, 11.10.2023